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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/673,386	09/30/2003	Tatsuya Araki	D-1534	3748

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EXAMINER

KAO, CHIH CHENG G

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2882

DATE MAILED: 04/27/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/673,386

Applicant(s)

ARAKI ET AL.

Examiner

Chih-Cheng Glen Kao

Art Unit

2882

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 March 2005.  
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.  
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 9 is/are rejected.  
7) ☒ Claim(s) 2-8 is/are objected to.  
8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morasse (US Patent 6126314) in view Applicant's admission of prior art (AAPA).

Morasse discloses X-ray equipment comprising a carriage (fig. 2, #1), an x-ray source on the carriage (col. 3, lines 1-4), and a cassette storage box pivotally attached to the carriage for storing a cassette with a radiographic storage medium (Abstract and fig. 2, #7).

However, Morasse does not disclose storage box locking means engaging a cassette storage box for locking the cassette storage box in a locked state and locking release holding means attached to the storage box locking means for holding the storage box locking means in a released state so that the storage box locking means is released from the locked state, wherein said locking release holding means includes an elastic member for urging the storage box locking means in the locked state when the storage box locking means is locked, and for urging the storage box locking means in the released state when the storage box locking means is released.

AAPA teaches storage box locking means engaging a cassette storage box for locking the cassette storage box in a locked state (fig. 8, #53 and 54) and locking release holding means attached to the storage box locking means for holding the storage box locking means in a

Art Unit: 2882

released state so that the storage box locking means is released from the locked state (fig. 8, #55), wherein said locking release holding means includes an elastic member (fig. 8, #55) for urging the storage box locking means in the locked state when the storage box locking means is locked (fig. 8), and for urging the storage box locking means in the released state when the storage box locking means is released (fig. 10, when #55 is pulling #53 down).

It would have been obvious, to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to incorporate the equipment of Morasse with the storage box locking means and the locking release holding means of AAPA, since one would be motivated to make such a modification to better hold the container in place without opening unexpectedly (figs. 8-10) as implied from AAPA.

#### *Allowable Subject Matter*

2. Claims 2-8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

3. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Regarding claim 2, prior art does not disclose or fairly suggest an X-ray equipment including auto-lock switching means attached to storage box locking means for switching the storage box locking means from a released state to a locked state when a cassette storage box is closed, in combination with all the limitations in the claim and base claim. Claims 3-8 contain allowable subject matter by virtue of their dependency.

*Response to Arguments*

4. Objections to the specification and claims made in the Office Action mailed 10/5/04 have been withdrawn in light of the Amendment filed 3/14/05. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 9 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. Applicant's arguments filed 3/14/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

5. Applicants argue that AAPA does not disclose locking release holding means for holding the storage box locking means in a released state so that the storage box locking means is released from a locking state. The Examiner disagrees. As seen in Figure 8, the locked state is a state where the hook (fig. 8, #53) is pointing out perpendicularly from the edge of the carriage (fig. 8, #51). The released state would be a state where the hook is pointing down due to the elastic member (fig. 10, #55) urging the hook. Therefore, AAPA does teaches locking release holding means (fig. 10, #55) attached to the storage box locking means (fig. 10, #53) for holding the storage box locking means (fig. 10, #53) in a released state (fig. 10, when #55 is pulling #53 down) so that the storage box locking means (fig. 10, #53) is released from the locked state (fig. 8, when #53 is pointing out perpendicularly from the edge of #51). Applicants' arguments are not persuasive, and the claims remain rejected.

***Conclusion***

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chih-Cheng Glen Kao whose telephone number is (571) 272-2492. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F (9 am to 5 pm).


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ed Glick can be reached on (571) 272-2490. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2882

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



gk



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